Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing male ~~or female~~ sterile plants comprising providing an enzyme [[means]]for inactivating a herbicide and an enzyme [[means]] for reactivating the thus inactivated herbicide, wherein the herbicide inactivating enzyme [[means]] is provided within vegetative tissues and the reactivating enzyme [[means]] is provided in male ~~or female~~ reproductive structures of the plant, so that the vegetative, but not reproductive, structures are protected from the phytotoxic activity of the herbicide when applied to the plant.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing male ~~or female~~ sterile plants according to claim 1, comprising the steps of transforming plant material with a polynucleotide which encodes a first enzyme which is capable of N-acetylating L-phosphoinothricin and a second enzyme which is capable of hydrolyzing, or otherwise removing the acetyl group from, the N-acetyl L-phosphoinothricin to yield L-phosphoinothricin, and regenerating the thus transformed material into a plant, wherein the first enzyme is expressed only in the green tissues of the plant and wherein L-phosphoinothricin herbicide is applied to the plant foliarly up to the time of male ~~or female~~ gamete formation and/or maturation, so that the plant is substantially undamaged by the application of herbicide and wherein the second enzyme is expressed preferentially in either male or female reproductive structures so that the selective local regeneration of L-phosphoinothricin in these tissues prevents the formation of the said gametes, or otherwise renders them non-functional.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]]3, wherein the first enzyme is a phosphoinothricin acetyl transferase (PAT) and the second enzyme is an amidase or hydrolase.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]]3, wherein the L-phosphoinothricin is applied in mixture along with D-phosphoinothricin and/or at least one further compound selected from the group consisting of: safeners, gametocides, glutathione S transferase inducers, Cytochrome P-450 inducers or inhibitors, herbicides, fertilizers, nematocides, synergists, insecticides, fungicides, hormones and plant growth regulators.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the PAT enzyme is under expression control of a plastocyanin promoter.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein, the PAT enzyme is additionally expressed from ~~a either a~~ male ~~or female~~ specific floral promoter so that the enzyme is present only in green tissues and in reproductive tissues other than those reproductive tissues in which the gametes are rendered non-functional.